



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito and
Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

(online via Zoom also)

Kensington Comm. Center,
59 Arlington Blvd,
Kensington, CA

The next meetings are:

Oct 10th, 2022

Nov 14th, 2022

Meeting minutes are on
the website in the past
events page.

What's New

KARO ECHO Monthly Meeting, Oct 10th, 1900 — Zoom only this month

The monthly KARO ECHO meeting will be **Zoom only this month**, at 1900, Monday Sept 12th. Sorry for the last minute change, but Howdy KE6BEE is not going to be certain enough of his schedule to commit to hosting the hybrid meeting. We will establish an officer nomination committee for the Dec. vote. The training portion will review the Oct. 8 SET and the Oct. 1 digital training. [Full agenda link.](#)

Thank You for Participation in the Fall KARO ECHO SET, Sat. Oct. 8

We had 22 operators check-in to the KARO ECHO Simulated Emergency Test (SET) and we passed over 40 formatted messages, including a number of digital messages. Thanks to Rob K6RJM for setting up a digital station at the City hall EOC and for Martha K6ELO and Curt KM6HFT for being EOC voice operators. Thanks to Don NI6A, Michael AJ6RZ and Howdy KE6BEE for taking shifts as net control operators. We were pleased to have at least 4 new ham operators who passed messages KN6VTY Ednalee, KN6VTC Jim, KN6CRT Lorraine, and AA6AT Chris and his kids Bridget and Isaac feeding him messages on FRS and CB. Thanks to Karen KK6ZPM, Jay KJ6WSS and Annette KJ6SWK for mentoring new operators during the SET.



Oct. 1 In-person Hands-on Digital Messaging Training a Success

KARO ECHO trained 10 new digital operators on Oct. 1 with a focus on FLdigi/FLmsg and acoustic coupling for starters. Thanks to Tom KN6BUY for hosting the training as well as Frans KJ6IUV, Michael AJ6RZ, Howdy KE6BEE and Rob K6RJM for leading the training. Also, special thanks to Rob and Michael for making videos to help get new digital operators started ([Windows OS](#) and [MacOS](#)). Thanks to all the new digital operators for participating.

LOCAL NETS**KARO ECHO Simplex Nets**

146.415 MHz (primary)

146.475 (secondary)

Voice net: Thursday, after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but not before 1900 hours local time.

Digital net: Monday, 1900

West Contra County ACS/RACES Net

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net

3893 KHz. Thursday, 1835

American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX +5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Howdy KE6BEE

Vice-Pres: Frans KJ6IUV

Treasurer: Annette KJ6SWK

Secretary: Tom KN6BUY

Em. Coord: Howdy KE6BEE

Outreach/PR Manager:

Blake KN6CMP

Web-maestro: Rob K6RJM

Board member at large:

Hal KK6NDF

Net Manager and Newsletter

Editor: Howdy KE6BEE

What's New *(continued)***ARES affiliation**

Howdy, KE6BEE, has been officially appointed as KARO ECHO's ARRL Affiliated Club ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) by Dan Goldstein, KJ6KEU, ARRL ARES East Bay Section Emergency Coordinator. This will allow KARO ECHO to operate under the ARRL umbrella. Since KARO ECHO is already an ARRL Affiliated club, all we need to do is request an ARES group ID, so that KARO ECHO will become an official ARES group under the ARRL umbrella. We do need to have 50% of the full voting membership to also join ARES. See page 4 for further information about ARES.

First Wed. Neighborhood nets and Communication Hub Activities

West county EmComm net out of Richmond at 11 am (starts after the Richmond siren test) FRS/GRMS simplex (on Ch.19, secondary Ch. 17), followed by a ham net on the **WA6KQB 440 repeater** with WA6DUR repeater as secondary (see WA6DUR freq. information below)

East Richmond Heights, ham operators check-in at 1845 on Walt's WA6DUR repeater 442.150 +5 offset and PL tone 107.2Hz.

EC4 (central El Cerrito Hills) CERT Net, Ch. 2 (462.5875), at 1845

EC9 (north El Cerrito Hills) CERT Net, Ch. 15 simplex (462.550), at 1900

East Richmond Heights, Ready-2-React Net, Ch. 7 (462.7125), at 1930

EC8 (north El Cerrito) CERT net, Ch.4 (462.6375), at 2000

Ken6 (SW Kensington) CERT net, on first Tuesdays, Ch. 6 (462.6875) at 1900

Richmond simulated EOC net, first Thursdays at 1030, on three simplex frequencies in this order: 147.450, 441.000, 223.400

Albany Radio Net, Wed. (weekly) 1900 on Ch.19 [Albany Radio groups.io](http://AlbanyRadiogroups.io)

[Coordination of neighborhood FRS/GMRS frequencies can be found here.](#)

Welcome New Hams

New El Cerrito licenses issued: 1, KN6VUA

New Kensington licenses issued: 2, KN6VTC (Jim) and KN6VTY EdnaLee, both new KARO ECHO members, congratulations on your new licenses

Digital Net, Wed. 10/12, 1930

Because of the member meeting on Monday, the digital net will be on Wed. 10/12, at 1930 on 146.415. We will discuss the Oct. in-person training and welcome any new digital operators who want to practice FLdigi/FLmsg emcomm

What's New *(continued)*

Pacificon, Oct. 14-16, 2022, in San Ramon

Pacificon, the premier ham radio event on the west coast is being held Oct. 14-16 in San Ramon <https://www.pacificon.org/> \$30 at the door. [Schedule of events](#). Technical [forum schedule](#).

Radio Team KARO ECHO Hats

Thanks to Blake KN6CMP and Susan KN6CMR for organizing an order of KARO ECHO hats. They are safety yellow with reflective trim and embroidered lettering. They can be purchased from KARO ECHO for \$25. Contact Howdy KE6BEE for more information ke6bee@arrl.net.



Online payments to KARO ECHO

It is now possible to pay KARO ECHO membership online through PayPal. No PayPal account is required. Use the [donate button on the KARO ECHO home](#) page, or under the heading "[Get Involved—Join](#)".

Your dues and donations are the source of funds for our ongoing costs of operation, as well as installing equipment we need to have in place for effective emergency operations. Currently, we are planning to install additional antennas and patch boxes in El Cerrito and Kensington to give easy outdoor access to high quality communication for operators deployed various public spaces.



Treasurer's Report

KARO-ECHO Treasurer's Report				
As of October 6, 2022				
	Credits	Debits	Bank Balance	Notes
Balance Forward from 9/11/2022			\$1,728.07	
Since last report				
No transactions			\$1,728.07	
Balance 10/6/2022			\$1,728.07	
32 total paid members to date for 2022				

ARES Affiliation

What is ARES?

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their **LOCAL** ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

ARES Membership Requirements

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an Amateur Radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership. Although ARES members do not have to be ARRL members, however, an official ARES group, must be ARRL Affiliated and have 50% of its full members ARES members.

ARES membership is entirely free and participation is always optional.

Level 1 is an entry level for those who choose a non-leadership role as well as those new to Amateur Radio or emergency communications. This introductory training is conducted by the local ARES group to meet their needs and those of their served agency or partners. This training may include FEMA ICS training as well as other basic EmComm training. Members should also complete the ARES Position Task Book (PTB) for level 1. This introduces ARES participants to the fundamentals of emergency communications and provides instruction on how participants are to conduct themselves while serving in the field or otherwise activated.

How to Get Involved in ARES?

Fill out the [ARES Registration form](#) and submit it to your local Emergency Coordinator Howdy, KE6BEE KE6BEE@ARRL.ORG. There are no fees or additional requirements for a basic ARES membership, however additional training and benefits are available, optionally.

Why ARES?

You are welcome to stay at level 1. Levels 2-4 are entirely to demonstrate possibilities that might or might not be useful skill sets.

ARES <http://www.arrl.org/ares>

[Download the ARES Manual \[PDF\]](#)

[ARES Field Resources Manual \[PDF\]](#)

[ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book \[Fillable PDF\]](#)

[ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book \[Word\]](#)

Optional: [Emergency Communications Training](#)

See the fully revised (7/01/2022) [ARES Plan](#): [http://arrl.org/files/file/ARES Plan Revision 7122b.pdf](http://arrl.org/files/file/ARES%20Plan%20Revision%207122b.pdf)

Operators may also consider applying as a [Official Emergency Station \(OES\)](#)

Don, NI6A, interim [District Emergency Coordinator \(DEC\)](#) and [Official Emergency Station \(OES\)](#)

Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. Fill-ins are sometimes needed and we can always add another to permanent rotation. Please volunteer to give it a try. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the **new scheduled dates** for each operator next year. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

Net control is a skill that many operators should have and regularly practice. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: Thanksgiving 11/25/2021, 11/24/2022)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	10/21/2021	12/30/2021	3/3/2022	5/5/2022	7/7/2022	9/8/2022	11/10/2022
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	10/28/2021	1/6/2022	3/10/2022	5/12/2022	7/14/2022	9/15/2022	11/17/2022
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	11/4/2021	1/13/2022	3/17/2022	5/19/2022	7/21/2022	9/22/2022	12/1/2022
KN6BUY	Tom Fattaruso	11/11/2021	1/20/2022	3/24/2022	5/26/2022	7/28/2022	9/29/2022	12/8/2022
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	11/18/2021	1/27/2022	3/31/2022	6/2/2022	8/4/2022	10/6/2022	12/15/2022
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	12/2/2021	2/3/2022	4/7/2022	6/9/2022	8/11/2022	10/13/2022	12/22/2022
KJ6IUV	Frans Kuypers	12/9/2021	2/10/2022	4/14/2022	6/16/2022	8/18/2022	10/20/2022	12/29/2022
KN6CMR	Susan Yeaman	12/16/2021	2/17/2022	4/21/2022	6/23/2022	8/25/2022	10/27/2022	1/5/2023
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	12/23/2021	2/24/2022	4/28/2022	6/30/2022	9/1/2022	11/3/2022	1/12/2023

Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900 on 146.415, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications.

[A list of potential training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website.

[A log of our check-in counts can be found here.](#) Howdy KE6BEE typically updates this document in real time during the net, so you can check it against your log during or after the net.

For 2020: 1008 check-ins, avg. 21/week, high of 28, 72 unique callsigns

For 2021: 919 check-ins, avg. 19/week, high of 25, 54 unique callsigns

For 2022 (so far): 717 check-ins, avg. 18/week, high of 23, 49 unique callsigns

Thanks for your participation. Keep it up!

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, in-person at the Kensington Community Center (KCC) as well as online using Zoom (hybrid meetings).

The next meetings are:

- ♦ Oct 10th, 2022
- ♦ Nov 14th, 2022

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Payments can be given to the Treasurer at monthly meetings or mailed to the address below. Participation is welcome independent of paid membership, but only licensed amateur radio operators who are dues paying KARO ECHO members will be allowed to vote on KARO ECHO business. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications is welcome.

Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Our secondary frequency is 146.475 MHz simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

Newsletter Content Wanted

Any input on content you'd like to propose for inclusion in the KARO ECHO newsletter can be sent to Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net We welcome all ideas for content including announcements, events, etc.

KARO ECHO Field Day Video

Thanks to Frans KJ6IUUV for taking video and editing a nice [movie of Field Day activities](#).

Outreach, Education and Licensing

Local and Online Ham License Classes and Exams

Many ham license classes and exams are offered locally or entirely online. See a [list of opportunities on the KARO ECHO website](#)

ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.

Recruiting Additional Communications Coordinators

Read the [Neighborhood District Radio Communications Coordinator \(DRCC\) plan](#) written by Don NI6A.

Training for Beginning Operators

Thanks to Jay KJ6WSS, Edward KM6UBY and Karen KK6ZPM for their May 23rd 2020 introductory radio class, with emphasis on the GMRS radio BTECH-V1. [A recording of the class and other resources are available here.](#)

Net Control Operator Training

Diane KK6RED, David KJ6AAT and Howdy KE6BEE taught an Apr 4th 2020 net control class for C8 the county wide CERT organization. There was a great reception to this class across the county and we inspired many groups to expand the scope of their net trainings. [The class recording is available here.](#)

EMCOMM related videos

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Post Camp Fire GMRS organization

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb_logo

ELMERING

An online elmering forum can be accessed by emailing elmer@karoecho.net or browsing the associated google group. More in-depth elmering/mentoring is available by request.

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of useful information at <https://www.karoecho.net> website.

Encouragement to Monitor 146.415 and Explore Other Nets

It is always encouraged to monitor 146.415 (call out for others occasionally and make some casual contacts). There are a lot of other nets around the bay area that you can reach. Expand your radio horizons. See the [KARO ECHO Coordination page](#) for a listing of some other nets to explore. You can just listen at first, or program your radio (if a repeater is used) and try transmitting as a guest check-in to see if you can make contact.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ♦ This [new heading on the Events page](#) will be updated with recent additions to the website.
- ♦ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ♦ If you haven't already filled out the **JOIN** form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ♦ A [follow-through novice primer](#) has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more.
- ♦ A [dual-band antenna primer](#) for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-duddy world
- ♦ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ♦ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
- ♦ Following the Thursday evening net check-in, there is often a training session and/or discussion.
- ♦ All recent KARO ECHO [Minutes will be found at our Past Events page](#) We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page](#).

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email info@karoecho.net

Other Resources

"ALERTWildfire" camera links in our area:

[William Rust Summit cam](#)

[Wildcat Canyon cam](#)

[Vollmer Peak cam](#)

[Nichol Knob cam](#)

[View real-time data from any weather station in the state.](#)

[Zonehaven evacuation zone here by on this interactive map](#)

[Albany Radio Groups.io forum](#)

[Eastbay Resilience Groups.io forum](#)

[Marina Bay Neighbors and 1st Wed West county GMRS net](#)

To make it easy for amateurs to evaluate RF exposure, ARRL provides an [RF exposure calculator](#) on its [RF Exposure page](#).

KARO ECHO Classifieds

We are soliciting classified ads from KARO ECHO members, and friends, to facilitate gifting, swapping, selling radio gear and/or offering help/services such as loans of special equipment/tools, etc. Please send any content to the newsletter editor, Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net

Loaner radios/antennas/meters available for trial/testing, including:

HTs, larger mobile radios, gear for digital modes and mesh nodes, SWR/power meter

Contact: Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net

Available for free: B&K Precision 2120B oscilloscope - 20MHz bandwidth, dual trace, triggered sweep. Contact: Tom, KN6BUY, at tfat@sbcglobal.net
